



Report No. 13, 2020

<b>Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19</b>	<b>Location: The Gambia</b>
<b>Date of Report: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020</b>	<b>Investigation Start Date: 17 March 2020 as of 18hrs.</b>
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## I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 13<sup>th</sup> national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

- All 5 laboratory test results received from MRCG (including those of the index and the third cases) were negative
- As per the WHO guideline, the 2 consecutive negative test results for both cases is a confirmation of recovery
- Both cases (The index and third cases) have been discharged
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, the country reported a total of 4 confirmed cases (2 of whom recovered)
- All four confirmed cases were imported

**Regional situation:** As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, 21:45, 45 African countries (including The Gambia) reported confirmed cases of COVID-19. Senegal (The Gambia's only immediate neighbour) reported 175 cases. The first set of cases in affected African countries were imported. However, local transmission is now on the increase.

**Global situation:** Since 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 at 21:45, a total of 854,039 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions in the affected countries) have been reported from 200 countries, areas or territories. Of these, 42,014 deaths were registered - a crude case fatality rate of 4.9%.

## II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

### ☐ Index Case:

- The 28-year old Gambian female arrived from London on the 15<sup>th</sup> March and self-reported for a laboratory test at the MRCG Laboratories on the 16<sup>th</sup> March.
- She was since isolated/hospitalized at MRCG and got discharged from admission on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, after producing two consecutive negative test results

### ☐ Second Case:

- The deceased was a 70-year old male Bangladeshi national who arrived from Senegal on the 14<sup>th</sup> March after passing through four other countries

### ☐ Third Case

- The 71-year old male Gambian hails from URR, and returned from France on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2020
- Patient was hospitalized at MRCG and was discharged on the 31<sup>st</sup> March upon recovery

### ☐ Fourth Case

- A 53-year old Gambian who arrived in The Gambia from France on the 15<sup>th</sup> March and resident at Busumbala Village (was in the same flight with the index case)
- His issue was reported to the RRT through the 1025 Hotline by a concerned citizen. A sample was collected on the 27<sup>th</sup> March and test results came out on the following day (28<sup>th</sup> March)
- Currently receiving treatment at the government treatment centre

### ☐ Probable Case

- 16 year old male, close contact of the 3<sup>rd</sup> case

- Sample collected on the 27<sup>th</sup> March and an inconclusive test result came out on the 28<sup>th</sup> March
- A follow-up confirmatory test will be done to determine whether suspect is covid-19 positive or not in a few days

Tables 1 and 2 show both the epi-classification of cases and the summary of outputs on the various public health activities undertaken:

**Table 1: Epi-Classification of Reported Cases, by Region, COVID-19 Outbreak, The Gambia, 2020**

Region	2020 Population Estimates	Epi Classification									
		New					Cumulative				
		Suspected case(s)	Probable Case(s)	Confirmed case(s)	Recovery (ies)	Death (s)	Suspected case(s)	Probable Case(s)	Confirmed case (s)	Recovery (ies)	Death(s)
Western Health Region One	950,266	3	0	0	1	0	73	0	3	1	1
Western Health Region Two	514,999	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
Upper River Region	283,911	0	0	0	1	0	16	1	1	1	0
North Bank West	130,196	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Bank East	129,629	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower River	88,100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central River	257,332	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>National Total</b>	<b>2,354,433</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

**Table 2: Summary of New and Cumulative Public Health Response Outputs, COVID-19 Outbreak, The Gambia, 2020**

Status	New	Cumulative
Quarantine	0	247
Completed quarantine	0	0
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries)	0	310
Contacts Traced	65	233
Total Tests conducted	5	102
Positive test result	0	4
Negative test result	5	97
Inconclusive test result	0	1



Fig 1: Map of The Gambia showing COVID-19 affected regions

### III. Major Response Activities

Table 3: Major response activities undertaken newly, COVID-19 Outbreak, The Gambia, 2020

Component	Interventions
<b>Coordination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daily coordination meetings ongoing at both the strategic and technical level</li> </ul>
<b>Surveillance/Laboratory</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular monitoring of the condition of all people under quarantine</li> <li>Tracing of contacts and contacts of contacts of the confirmed cases is ongoing</li> <li>All 5 laboratory test results received from MRCG on the 31<sup>st</sup> March came out negative</li> <li>Latest repeat tests for confirmation of recovery on both the index and the third cases came out negative</li> <li>65 low-risk contacts (or “contacts of contacts”) identified and traced</li> <li>Meeting with WHO and MRCG to pave the way forward for building capacity in the National Reference Lab for COVID19 testing</li> <li>Training of 80 surveillance officers and regional rapid response teams facilitated by WHO</li> </ul>
<b>Case Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two patients who were being treated at MRCG have recovered and are thus discharged to return home</li> <li>Fourth case still receiving treatment and remains in stable condition (clinical and psychosocial)</li> <li>AFRO case management guidelines received</li> <li>Posters displayed at treatment centers on the donning and doffing of PPEs and how to perform a particulate respirator seal check.</li> </ul>
<b>Logistics/Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PHEOC received donated items from private organizations such as medicines and IPC materials</li> <li>A family owned-restaurant has started providing three daily meals to the PHEOC staff and the gesture is expected to continue for the entire response period</li> <li>Security men provided at the national treatment centre by the Joint Operation Center (JOC)</li> </ul>
<b>Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 TV and 13 radio programs successfully conducted covering 3 TV and 8 Radio stations countrywide</li> <li>1 press briefing conducted</li> </ul>

- A delegation including community leaders visited affected communities to discuss some important issues relating COVID-19 preventive measures, alleviate fears, reassure affected people
- 17 communities mobilized/engaged on COVID-19 preventive measures using megaphones
- Summary of calls made to 1025: a total of 453 calls received
  - ❖ Out of the total calls received, 222 calls were related to COVID-19 inquires, 43 related to community case reporting and 188 not related to COVID-19
  - ❖ 7 calls booked for contact tracing and out of these, 2 were traced

#### IV. Next Steps/Recommendations:

- Immediate pre-positioning of PPEs in all health facilities
- Develop and distribute national COVID-19 treatment guidelines
- Intensify tracing of contacts of the confirmed cases and continue with daily follow-ups
- Encourage public reporting and self-reporting of high risk individuals through the toll-free line (1025)
- Increase psychosocial support to affected communities, persons under quarantine and those being followed up
  - Outbreak case definition (**see below**)

##### 1. Suspected case:

Any person with

- History of travel from any affected country within 14 days OR
- Close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 infection within 14 days OR
- Exposure to healthcare facility in a country where hospital associated COVID-19 infections have been reported **with or without** fever, cough, difficulty breathing

##### 2. Community Case Definition:

Any person with hot skin, cough, not breathing well, and who has travelled outside The Gambia recently OR who has taken care of sick person in The Gambia

##### 3. Probable case:

A suspect case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive or for whom testing was positive on a pan-coronavirus assay

##### 4. Confirmed case:

Any person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection with or without signs and symptoms

**For comments or questions, please contact:**

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